Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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P R 171819Z SEP 76 FM AMEMBASSY BONN TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1931 INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA USMISSION OECD PARIS USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, OECD, GW, US

SUBJECT: STEEG REPLY TO GEIMER/FEKETEKUTY LETTER

REF: (A) STATE 218471 (NOTAL)

- (B) BONN 14812
- (C) BONN 15491
- 1. EMBASSY HAS JUST RECEIVED GERMAN-LANGUAGE REPLY FROM ECONMIN ASSISTANT SECRETARY FRAU STEEG TO AUGUST 16 GEIMER/FEKETEKUTY LETTER RE OECD TRADE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAM.
- 2. EMBASSY POUCHING ORIGINAL TO DEPARTMENT. INFORMAL TRANSLATION AS FOLLOWS:

"DEAR MR. GEIMER.

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR LETTER OF AUGUST 16, 1976. WE HAVE STUDIED WITH INTEREST YOUR SUGGESTIONS MADE THEREIN. CONFIDENTIAL

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YOUR MTN DELEGATION IN GENEVA (WHICH WE HAVE FOR THE SAKE OF SIMPLICITY DIRECTLY INFORMED VIA HERR LUTZ) HAS ASSUREDLY INFORMED YOU BY NOW THAT SCHEDULING PROBLEMS WILL MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO MEET WITH YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF SEPTEMBER. I WOULD BE GLAD TO HAVE SUCH A DISCUSSION WITH YOU AFTER THE BEGINNING OF OCTOBER. IF THERE IS A CHANCE FOR YOU TO COME TO BONN AT THAT TIME, OUR OFFICES COULD CERTAINLY AND QUICKLY ARRANGE A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATE.

AS A FIRST REACTION TO YOUR SUGGESTION ABOUT AN INFORMAL MEETING IN BONN OF SEVERAL SELECTED DELEGATIONS PRIOR TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE OECD TRADE COMMITTEE, I MUST TELL YOU FROM THE OUTSET THAT THE REALIZATION OF SUCH A PLAN SEEMS TO ME PROBLEMATICAL FOR VARIOUS REASONS.

I ALSO HAVE MY DOUBTS AS TO WHETHER A SPECIAL IMPULSE OF THIS KIND IS STILL NEEDED, IN VIEW OF THE AGREEMENT REACHED AT THE LAST SESSION OF THE TRADE COMMITTEE REGARDING A WORK PROGRAM THAT BASICALLY ACCORDS WITH YOUR SUGGESTIONS.

IN THIS CONNECTION, I WOULD LIKE TO RAISE ANOTHER PROPOSAL FOR DISCUSSION. SHOUID WE NOT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH XCSS PRACTICE. SHIFT OUR WORKING DINNER TO THE EVENING BEFORE THE TRADE COMMITTEE SESSION RATHER THAN HOLD IT ON THE EVENING OF THE FIRST DAY'S MEETING? THIS WOULD GIVE US THE CHANCE TO PREPARE THE COMMITTEE SESSION IN CONCERT WITH THE MOST IMPORTANT DELEGATIONS, AND TO ASSURE THAT THE CHAIRMAN, SECRETARIAT AND DELEGATIONS PARTICIPATING AT THE WORKING DINNER WORK IN THE COMMITTEE MEETING IN CLOSE ACCORD AND WITH THE SAME OBJECTIVES. IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE A WELCOME STEP FORWARD, IF SUCH AN ACCORD COULD BE FACILITATED BY INFORMAI WORKING PAPERS OF THE U.S. AND OTHER DELEGATIONS. I WOULD THEREFORE BE VERY GRATEFUL IF THE U.S. DELEGATION WOULD UNDERTAKE THE PRELIMINARY MEASURES INDICATED IN YOUR LETTER. FOR MY PART, I WOULD STRIVE TO ENCOURAGE OTHER DELEGATIONS TO PRESENT CONFIDENTIAL

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WORKING PAPERS FOR THE REMAINING TOPICS OF DISCUSSION.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT, IN THIS WAY, WE CAN MAKE A USEFUL CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE IMPROVEMENT IN COMMITTEE DISCUSSION WHICH WE BOTH DESIRE.

I AM, WITH CORDIAL GREETINGS,

| HILLENBRAN | H. STEEG" D | | | |
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